

BRIEFINGS FROM LEE MORRIS



FULTON COUNTY DISTRICT 3 COMMISSIONER

MARCH 2015

COMMISSIONER MORRIS WELCOMES NEW MANAGER

By a unanimous vote on March 4, 2015, the Board of Commissioners hired Richard “Dick” Anderson as its new County Manager. Dick Anderson comes to the County with a wealth of management experience, having served in top management positions at AT&T, the U.S. Federal Reserve and the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority.

Commissioner Morris is excited about his leadership, management experience, and willingness to serve the public.

Dick’s number one objective is to improve efficiency and customer

service in Fulton County. He created the slogan “**Fulton County 1st in 3, IMPACT – SERVICE – EFFICIENCY (FCF3),**” which he believes will create **happy employees** which in turn make for **happy customers**. He also hopes to seek the support of outside agencies to assist in achieving his goals.

Dick believes that his first step is to permanently fill the various department head roles which are currently held by interim directors.

With Anderson’s wealth of experience providing quality customer service, Commissioner Morris believes he can turn Fulton County into a more efficient operation.



FULTON COUNTY CLARIFIES BOARD APPOINTMENTS

On May 6, 2013, the Georgia General Assembly adopted House Bill 171, which changed the geographic boundaries of the commission districts for Fulton County and revised the numbers of the districts. As a result, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners (BOC) adopted legislation to clarify board appointments and to determine which boards should be eliminated. Commissioner Morris inherited the appointments of former Commissioner Robb Pitts (District 2). Also, the BOC amended the terms of appointees on several boards to coincide with the terms of the appointing commissioners. This action allowed Commissioner Morris to make several new appointments to boards and commissions. To date he has made the following appointments:

Fulton County Arts Council

Clara Dodd Blalock

Susan Hightower Loeb

FRESH Citizens Advisory Board

Charles E. Loeb Jr.

Patricia Dye Brennan

Fulton County Task Force on AIDS

Robert W. (Bob) Gibeling Jr.

Kathleen Ruth

Smart Justice Coordinating Committee

Cynthia Briscoe Brown

Personnel Board

W. Jackson (Jack) Winter

LEADERSHIP SANDY SPRINGS VISITS FULTON COUNTY

The 2015 class of Leadership Sandy Springs had an opportunity to meet with Commissioners Ellis, Morris and Hausmann to discuss issues that



affect Sandy Springs. The class posed questions to each commissioner.

Commissioner Morris told the class of his vision for Fulton County and his desire to make the county more customer-friendly.

FULTON COUNTY DELEGATION MEETS WITH THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The Fulton County Delegation of the Georgia General Assembly met with the Fulton County Board of Commissioners to discuss the County's legislative package for 2015. This year's package includes the following top five priorities:



- Legislation to provide Fulton County the flexibility to establish an alternate fiscal year
- Legislation to allow a referendum for the City of South Fulton County
- Legislation to allow Fulton County to seek a mechanism to collect unpaid health inspection fees.
- Legislation to set standards for Home Owner Associations
- Legislation to change 911 funding

LEE'S CORNER

The Fulton County budget is required by law to be adopted by the end of January, so one of the first major tasks of the newly elected Fulton County Commission was to pass the 2015 budget. For the first time in recent memory, the budget passed with a unanimous vote. The budget was not "perfect" from my perspective nor from the perspective of any of the other commissioners, but the seven of us negotiated several issues that made the unanimous vote one of true political compromise.



While we restored the funding to eliminate the unpopular reduced library hours, and also restored arts funding, the budget cut significant amounts out of overhead departments like Finance, HR and IT. Importantly for me, the budget contemplates a roll-back of the millage rate in an amount equal to the expected revenue on the overall increase in appraised values. (The millage rate is actually formally adopted later in the year.)

Perhaps equally significant, we unanimously adopted a new reserve policy which doubles the general fund reserves, from one month to two months of expenditures. This policy limits departmental spending and ensures a rainy day fund.

I view the 2015 budget process as a key first step toward restoring some faith and trust on the part of Northside taxpayers, that their tax dollars are being spent wisely.



FULTON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

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